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Jan 10, 2002

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020004757 A1

TITLE: System and method of planning a funeralAbstract Paragraph (1):

An apparatus, computer-implemented method and program product to arrange and fund a funeral or other memorial service. A program receives user input requesting information associated with funeral products, services and homes. The program associates the user input with a budgetary, profile, home locator, or step-based parameter. Each parameter logically links to an information field stored within the database. A central web server retrieves information associated with the parameter for inclusion within a funeral plan.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (2):

[0002] This invention relates generally to the death care industry, and more particularly to funerals and other memorial services and methods of planning the same.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (4):

[0003] Upon the death of a family member, surviving loved ones must make a number of decisions in a relatively short time. Too often a bereaved loved one feels pressured and overwhelmed by memorial preparations. Exemplary memorial decisions encompass ceremony preferences, financial arrangements, casket or urn selections, etc. Other considerations relate to transportation, floral displays, as well as "personalizing" products and services. For instance, clients routinely customize materials, finishes, corner adornments and interiors of caskets to honor loved ones. Likewise, "memorial items" or keepsakes may be tastefully incorporated into aspects of a memorial service. While such services and personal touches facilitate the healing processes, they often represent difficult choices for bereaved loved ones.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (5):

[0004] In consideration of the above, the trend of preplanning one's own funeral has become increasingly common. Preplanning ensures that the wishes of a planner are recorded and fulfilled. The practice is especially desirable in discordant family scenarios where children may pointedly disagree as to memorial details. Thus, death care providers expend great resources to develop methods and products to encourage and facilitate preplanning.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (6):

[0005] Funeral plans and preplans are conventionally created in an "arrangement conference." In such a conference, a funeral director meets with a pre-planner or surviving loved one of the deceased. The conference is typically held in the funeral home of the funeral director, who describes and discusses various funeral products, services and costs. The funeral director may use visual aids, such as a product catalog, product display board and a casket selection room to illustrate the products available to the customer. Similar catalogs may be employed to give a sense for the services offered by a funeral.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (7):

[0006] While many family members and pre-planners prefer the structure and personal attention of an arrangement conference, others are uncomfortable meeting a funeral director in person. Some clients may feel pressured in a personal interview, or even concerned that they are wasting a director's time with indecisiveness. The demanding schedules of other clients do not allow for adequate time to meet with a funeral director or research arrangements thoroughly. Still other clients struggle with the initial decision of choosing a funeral home suited to meet their unique needs.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (8):

[0007] Some death care providers attempt to meet client insecurities and busy schedules by tapping into Internet resources. Commercial Internet applications have become ubiquitous in nearly every other industry, and funerary providers likewise recognize advantages inherent to the technology. For instance, digitized listings of funeral products and services are displayed on Internet web pages maintained by funeral suppliers and providers. Such web pages allow browsers limited exposure to select products and other aspects of a memorial process. Web pages can familiarize clients with select products and services prior to an arrangement conference. However, while they can facilitate the planning process, conventional websites are not comprehensive or integrated and still require clients to attend personal arrangement conferences.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (9):

[0008] Consequently, what is needed is a method of arranging a memorial in a manner that allows for more convenient, thoughtful and comprehensive planning than has heretofore been possible.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (11):

[0009] The invention successfully incorporates Internet-based technology to provide a systematic method of planning a funeral or other memorial service online. In one embodiment, a program consistent with the invention receives user input from a client. The user input requests pricing information on a product, service, or funeral home selected from among a plurality of homes. The user input may be associated, for example, with a budgetary, profile, or step-based parameter. Each parameter is typically associated with respective collections of goods, services and other data. A central server retrieves the pricing information from a database and outputs it to a user. The information is typically associated with funerary products and services offered by the funeral homes.

Summary of Invention Paragraph (12):

[0010] In another embodiment consistent with the invention, user input is forwarded from a funeral home website to a central server. In such a scenario, the program may only retrieve a subset of the database that corresponds to products and services affiliated with the funeral home website. In still another embodiment, a funeral plan may be funded online, as well. Such a method typically involves arranging and communicating a method, amount and date of payment to a funeral home or vendor.

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph (4):

[0014] FIG. 3 is a flow chart illustrating one embodiment of a method of planning a funeral or other memorial service according to the principles of the present invention;

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph (6):

[0016] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram illustrating a funeral planning session and associated communications network in accordance with the principles of the present invention;

Brief Description of Drawings Paragraph (10):

[0020] FIG. 9 is an exemplary browser window generated by the funeral plan website of FIG. 3.

Detail Description Paragraph (2):

[0022] The present invention relates to an apparatus, computer-implemented method and program product configured to arrange and fund a funeral. A program of the invention may receive user input requesting pricing and educational information associated with funeral products, services and homes. The program may receive and store such information from a plurality of product and service providers. In this manner, one embodiment of the invention consolidates the expertise, products and services of multiple funerary suppliers, providing a user with an extensive, competitive and diverse platform from which to plan a memorial service.

Detail Description Paragraph (3):

[0023] More particularly, the program may associate the user input with a budgetary, profile, step-based, or locator parameter. Each product, service and funeral home may share a database relationship with at least one such parameter. The program may retrieve pricing, educational and other information related to an implicated parameter in response to receiving the user input. Values assigned to the pricing information and located funeral homes may be mathematically scaled and rated to reflect a preference for preset user input or a provider product line. The program may initiate the display of the rated information for the perusal of the user. The user, in turn, may consider

recommended items, collections or homes for incorporation into their funeral plan.

Detail Description Paragraph (5):

[0024] Turning to the Drawings, wherein like numbers denote like parts throughout the several views, FIG. 1 illustrates a computer system 10 suitable for implementing online funeral planning in a manner consistent with the invention. Computer system 10 is illustrated as a networked computer system including one or more client computers 12, 14 and 20 (e.g., desktop or PC-based computers, workstations, etc.) coupled to server 16 (e.g., a PC-based server, a minicomputer, a midrange computer, a mainframe computer, etc.) through a network 18. Network 18 represents a networked interconnection, including, but not limited to local-area, wide-area, wireless, and public networks (e.g., the Internet). Moreover, any number of computers and other devices may be networked through network 18, e.g., multiple servers.

Detail Description Paragraph (7):

[0026] FIG. 2 illustrates a hardware and software environment for an apparatus 30 suitable for hosting an online funeral planning web site consistent with the principles of the invention. For the purposes of the invention, apparatus 30 may represent a computer, computer system or other programmable electronic device, including: a client computer (e.g., similar to computers 12, 14 and 20 of FIG. 1), a server computer (e.g., similar to server 16 of FIG. 1), a portable computer, an embedded controller, etc. Apparatus 30 will hereinafter also be referred to as a "computer," although it should be appreciated the term "apparatus" may also include other suitable programmable electronic devices consistent with the invention.

Detail Description Paragraph (8):

[0027] Computer 30 typically includes at least one processor 31 coupled to a memory 32. Processor 31 may represent one or more processors (e.g., microprocessors), and memory 32 may represent the random access memory (RAM) devices comprising the main storage of computer 30, as well as any supplemental levels of memory, e.g., cache memories, non-volatile or backup memories (e.g., programmable or flash memories), read-only memories, etc. In addition, memory 32 may be considered to include memory storage physically located elsewhere in computer 30, e.g., any cache memory in a processor 31, as well as any storage capacity used as a virtual memory, e.g., as stored within a funeral database 36 or on another computer coupled to computer 30 via network 38.

Detail Description Paragraph (10):

[0029] For additional storage, computer 30 may also include one or more mass storage devices 36 configured to store a funeral database 37. Exemplary devices 36 can include: a floppy or other removable disk drive, a hard disk drive, a direct access storage device (DASD), an optical drive (e.g., a CD drive, a DVD drive, etc.), and/or a tape drive, among others. Furthermore, computer 30 may include an interface with one or more networks 38 (e.g., a LAN, a WAN, a wireless network, and/or the Internet, among others) to permit the communication of information with other computers coupled to the network. It should be appreciated that computer 30 typically includes suitable analog and/or digital interfaces between processor 31 and each of components 32, 33, 34, 36 and 38.

Detail Description Paragraph (11):

[0030] Computer 30 operates under the control of an operating system 40, and executes various computer software applications, components, programs, objects, modules, etc. (e.g., funeral home locator 50, web server 42, profile program 43, step-by-step program 44, budget program 45, among others). Moreover, various applications, components, programs, objects, modules, etc. may also execute on one or more processors in another computer coupled to computer 30 via a network 38, e.g., in a distributed or client-server computing environment, whereby the processing required to implement the functions of a computer program may be allocated to multiple computers over a network.

Detail Description Paragraph (16):

Creating an Online Funeral Plan

Detail Description Paragraph (17):

[0035] The flowchart of FIG. 3 illustrates an exemplary embodiment for planning a funeral within the hardware/software environments of the first two figures. The flowchart depicts a sequence of method steps taken from the perspective of an online planner. In the illustrated embodiment, a program of FIG. 2 receives user input from a client. User input may be submitted via the web server of the same figure. The program may associate the user input with a budgetary, profile, or step-based parameter. Each parameter, in turn, may be paired with pricing and other information pertaining to a funerary item or set of funerary products and services. Each item or set shares a

database relationship with the associated parameter. The central web server displays the pricing information after retrieving it from the funeral database of FIG. 2. The client may then consider the pricing information as they construct a funeral plan from among program recommendations.

Detail Description Paragraph (18):

[0036] Turning more particularly to FIG. 3, a user may access a funeral plan website via an Internet connection at block 52. Alternatively, funeral planning software and associated database structures may reside locally on the hardware of the user. In either case, a program of the embodiment may present the user with options that represent different funeral planning approaches. The approaches embody software routines that guide clients of varying priorities, finances and experience towards establishing a recommended funeral plan at block 62.

Detail Description Paragraph (19):

[0037] More specifically, the approaches are configured to elicit user input in a format that may be readily associated with an established parameter. A program, in turn, pairs the parameter with pricing information stored within the funeral database. The information may relate to a set of products, services and/or funeral homes. The database maintains the information such that data may be searched, matched and outputted in response to user input.

Detail Description Paragraph (20):

[0038] FIG. 4 illustrates a logical structure for the exemplary funeral database of FIG. 2. The database embodiment stores information pertinent to exemplary product and service offerings, as well as to funeral sets, which comprise collections of such items. The database may additionally store a record of a user's interaction within a particular planning session.

Detail Description Paragraph (21):

[0039] The category blocks of columns 70 and 72 represent exemplary components of a funeral plan. The database may store information relating to the listed categories in manner that it may be readily associated and recalled in connection with user input. Each of the displayed blocks may hold the place of numerous fields omitted in the figure for space considerations. Nonetheless, it should be understood that each block within columns 70 and 72 could embody an exhaustive listing of specific products, services, organizational headers, and/or Internet links to funerary vendors. For instance, data stored in the place of the pallbearer category 74 may include fields configured to record the name, address and phone number of a designated pallbearer. Exemplary information stored by the database could also include the relationship shared between the pallbearer and a deceased. Similarly, stored donation fields 76 may embody a subclass, organ donation, which stores information pertaining to a donation organization, in addition to particular recordation of a decedent's donative intent. In any case, the listed categories do not limit the scope of the embodiment and are included only for exemplary purposes.

Detail Description Paragraph (22):

[0040] The database may additionally store funeral sets, as depicted in column 78. A program of the embodiment may group complementary products and services into such sets prior to a planning session. Sets may be comprehensive in scope, accounting for all aspects of a funeral plan. Other sets may contain incomplete fields. Such empty fields correspond to funerary aspects that may require additional user input to associate.

Detail Description Paragraph (24):

[0042] Still other products and/or services may be grouped into sets for display or educational purposes. For instance, an individual funeral home may maintain such a set for displaying an electronic catalog of products and services particular to the home. As such, the home, as a database user, can update the catalog information stored within the database. Such information may include Internet links or addresses that point to a website hosted by the funeral home.

Detail Description Paragraph (29):

[0047] A list of the recommended items and sets may be generated and displayed for the perusal of the user. Recommendations may consist of a single, comprehensive set, a particular item, or may involve multiple sets and/or items. After evaluating the generated list of recommendations, the user may select a set/item for incorporation into a funeral plan. Alternatively, the user may discard the results of the search in favor of a new one.

Detail Description Paragraph (30):

[0048] The user may also choose to initiate the display of additional information that pertains to a selected recommendation. Such information may be retrieved from the database fields of column 80 and is not limited to descriptions, educational materials and pricing information. Further, the program may initiate the display of contact information 90 related to a death care professional connected to the selected item.

Detail Description Paragraph (31):

[0049] The user may store recommendations and other data retrieved from the database at any time during a planning session within memory 92 allocated by the program. Both complete and partial plans may be recorded within the database. Incomplete portions of partial plans may be left undecided, while other portions representing particular products/services are populated and electronically stored. The incomplete fields may alternatively be accommodated with a default selection, trigger the display of more information or queries, or may be left to complete at a later planning session. A single client may choose to generate and save more than one funeral plan, and may make deletions, insertions and/or other modifications at their discretion.

Detail Description Paragraph (33):

[0051] The structure of the illustrative database may be further configured to preserve the competitive integrity and autonomy of individual funeral homes. For instance, where a user accesses the central database through a host-funeral home website, only the pricing information 82 affiliated with the home may be matched and displayed. For instance, a program may identify from field 98 that a user has entered the database through a host-funeral home website. As such, recommendations may reflect a statistical or absolute preference for the pricing information of the funeral home. As above, the program may achieve the preference by disproportionately weighting parameter values associated with the home's identification field 86, or by limiting access to all but a subset of the database.

Detail Description Paragraph (35):

[0052] Returning to FIG. 3, the information stored within the database structure of FIG. 4 may be associated with user input using programed planning approaches. Blocks 54, 56 and 58 of FIG. 3 represent three such exemplary approaches. For instance, the profile approach of block 54 elicits input in such a manner that it may be readily associated with a preconceived, profile parameter. The implicated parameter prompts recommendations of at least one funeral item or plan with which it is associated. Each recommended good or service meets or complements a profile criterion, or established preference. Thus, the program of the exemplary embodiment matches user input with a set of product and service recommendations that conform to the user's profile.

Detail Description Paragraph (36):

[0053] The profile approach streamlines the planning process by presenting a client with focused recommendations. The approach steers time conscious users towards more efficient planning. The approach also assists planners who possess only a vague or singular funerary preference by electronically displaying professional recommendations that may clarify or complement the preference. In either case, the program of block 54 guides a client through a series of questions/options used to generate a tailored profile.

Detail Description Paragraph (39):

[0056] To further illustrate the operation of the profile embodiment described herein, an exemplary planning session is depicted in the communications network of FIG. 5. Generally, a user 104 or provider 106a-e accesses a central server 108 directly over the Internet, or via a website of a participating funeral home 106b,e. Should the user 104 access the Internet through a funeral home website, a seamless link to the server 108 allows comprehensive planning without leaving the host-website. Alternatively, a funeral home or provider 106a-e accesses the funeral plan website of the server 108 on behalf of the client. From the funeral plan website, the client or representative submits user input as outlined in the above profile approach. The central database is searched, and a plan recommendation is presented.

Detail Description Paragraph (40):

[0057] Referring more specifically to FIG. 5, the client's computer terminal 104 interfaces with the central server 108. The Internet provides the communications link between the terminal 104 and server 108. Funeral homes and providers 106a-e submit information to the central database of the server 108 via Internet, telephone, computer and mail delivery mechanisms. Registration may be universally free, or have fees associated with different types of memberships.

Detail Description Paragraph (41):

[0058] For exemplary purposes, the user begins the planning session predisposed towards a coffin burial. In the figure, the client logs into a terminal 104 and accesses the funeral plan website maintained by the central server 108. The interactive program of the central server 108 enables the client to select a category, "burials," and/or a sub-category, such as "customization," from a scrollbar menu. Key words may alternatively be typed-in via user's keyboard. For instance, "burial, coffin and internal lining material" might prompt the central server 108 to search against the database for profile parameters related to those key terms. A profile parameter may additionally direct the display of a set of exemplary coffins configured to assist in establishing a preferred style or particular model of burial container.

Detail Description Paragraph (44):

[0061] Other exemplary profile queries pertain to pre-defined lifestyles. As such, user input may assist the planning software in making recommendations that honor a professional or personal characteristic of a deceased. For instance, an avid sportsman may wish to have a nature vignette displayed at viewing. Similarly, a military funeral may be appropriate to celebrate an aspect of a veteran's life. Such a scenario is depicted in the flowchart of FIG. 6. At blocks 172-180, a series of exemplary queries are posed to the client. User responses may prompt more specific questions or recommendations. Such questions and subsequent profile sequences may be configured differently depending upon which query from among blocks 172-180 the user answers.

Detail Description Paragraph (45):

[0062] For instance, a user may respond affirmatively to a question at block 178. In response, the program presents an explanation of the potential relevance of military service at block 182 in the context of funeral services. The presentation may be in multimedia format and may generally express benefits, requirements and other considerations pertinent to military funerals. Exemplary considerations could include the playing of Taps and the presentation of the American flag.

Detail Description Paragraph (48):

[0065] At block 188, the profile program initiates the electronic display of products and services appropriate for a military funeral. Should the user desire information or explanations regarding the recommendations, links to blocks 190-196 may be accessed. For instance, information displayed at block 190 explains that while any casket may be acceptable for most military ceremonies, a silver-colored, steel one is most common. Data at block 192 relates to engraving the symbol of the Armed Forces branch into the casket. The program expounds upon the traditions underlying bronze, flat grave markers at block 194, while honor guard considerations are addressed at block 196. The program further displays information regarding burial allowances, gun salutes and memorial certificates. As with the profile approach, recommendations may be saved, discarded, or added to a funeral plan at block 188. Alternatively, the program may further query the user at block 170.

Detail Description Paragraph (49):

[0066] Demographic questions provide further insight into developing profiled funeral recommendations. Preferences relating to personal hobbies, beliefs and keepsakes may aid the program in recommending suitable memorial items from those compiled in the database. Still other profile queries may relate to cemetery plots, visitation services, photos, family records, grief assistance and monuments.

Detail Description Paragraph (50):

[0067] The profile approach may also address such important details as obituaries, death certificates, transportation and donation arrangements. All of the above queries act to narrow the field of potential funeral plan choices, allowing the user to populate their plan from among a focused set of recommendations. Thus, the profile approach can expedite the matching a profiled, user criterion, such as a burial preference, with associated products, services and funerary providers 106.

Detail Description Paragraph (52):

[0068] Returning again to FIG. 3, other clients may prefer more guidance and educational perspective than offered by the profile approach of block 54. Alternatively, a step-by-step approach may be utilized at block 56. This approach systematically guides the client through the funeral planning process. More particularly, the step-based program organizes user input into a format readily associated with an established step-based parameter. The program, in turn, associates the parameter with a funerary product/service or educational link with which it is

associated. All recommended goods, services and/or information relate to the parameter and a common client preference, or step-based criterion.

Detail Description Paragraph (55):

[0071] An exploded view of one exemplary implementation of block 56 is shown in FIG. 7. The figure further showcases the comprehensive scope of products, services, and other planning options available via the embodiment. The step-by-step program may initially present the user with a listing of funeral plan topics 120, 124, 132, 134, 138, 140, 142 and 146. Each topic may categorically embody a potential aspect of a funeral plan. The user may select from any of the displayed topics appealing to a particular interest, preference or plan disposition. The step-by-step program may link each topic to queries and information configured to inform the user, while assisting in the development of their plan.

Detail Description Paragraph (56):

[0072] For instance, a user may select the funeral topic, "Funeral Home," at block 120. In response, the program may present the user with text explaining the significance of a funeral home, as well as helpful selection criteria. The format of the program may prompt the user to select a funeral home using a locator program at block 122. Though discussed below in detail, the funeral home locator program may search the funeral database for a home conforming to a user-stated geographic or service preference. A user predisposed to a particular funeral home may alternatively add the home to their funeral plan via block 122.

Detail Description Paragraph (57):

[0073] Other users may prefer to begin their step-by-step session by evaluating available services at block 124. As with block 120, the program may initially present the user with educational information pertinent to funerary services and providers. Exemplary text and images may pertain to licensing requirements for certain types of services. Selection of block 124 may further initiate the display of more specific service categories, denoted by blocks 126 and 128. For instance, a user may inquire of transportation services at block 128. In response, the program may present the user with background information relevant to funerary transportation.

Detail Description Paragraph (58):

[0074] If the user has previously selected a funeral home at block 122, then a display of procession options and associated costs may be initiated at block 62. At block 62, the program accesses pricing information and other recommendations from the database that are specific to the designated funeral home. If a user at block 128 has not yet added a funeral home to their plan, then the program may direct them to select one at block 122 prior to proceeding to the recommendations of block 62. The provider-specific nature of block 62 may require such formality and structure to provide meaningful cost representation. The architecture of the embodiment may further allow service providers to access the database in order to self-administrate their own offerings, catalogs and pricing information.

Detail Description Paragraph (59):

[0075] Product providers may similarly maintain their own product-related pricing information for items categorized under block 132. A user wishing to access such information at block 132 may be first presented with generalized information concerning funerary products. The program may display more specific product categories, such as those illustrated in column 134, for the perusal of the user. As with the service-planning route of block 124, a user may be required to select a funeral home at block 122 prior to accessing the specific pricing information of block 62. As discussed below in greater detail, block 62 offers the user pricing and product selections that may be added to a funeral plan at block 130.

Detail Description Paragraph (60):

[0076] Other features of the step-by-step program may not require the user to have previously designated a funeral home. For example, block 134 may prompt a user to register a preference from among the "Burial and Cremation" categories of column 136. User responses may be directly stored within a plan at block 130. Similarly at blocks 138 and 140, the program may incorporate plan input relating to personal and contact information, respectively. Planning options pertinent to different types of ceremonies may likewise be initiated through block 142. As above, the step-by-step program may infuse the data of block 142 and its associated subcategories with educational and contact information. As such, an informed user may directly input preferences into their plan at block 130. In another embodiment, column 144 data may be linked to the ceremonial services of a specific funerary provider.

Detail Description Paragraph (61):

[0077] At any time, the user may view their complete or partial plan at block 146. More particularly, the user's selection of block 146 may initiate an itemized display of all funerary products and services comprising a current funeral plan. The display may include pricing and other information. The user may add, delete, or otherwise modify any portion of their plan at their own discretion. By design, nearly all of the funeral plan topics addressed by the step-by-step program may be developed independently from other funerary topics. This architecture may enable a user to incrementally develop an informed funeral plan during shorter, more manageable sessions.

Detail Description Paragraph (63):

[0078] A different planning approach at block 60 of FIG. 3 may appeal to budget conscious clients. Some clients may have strict budgetary constraints and consequently prefer to examine the planning process from a financial perspective. As with the above approaches, software queries may promote tailored recommendations. User input is now associated with a budgetary parameter, and at least one embodiment recommends a funeral product or plan based upon that parameter.

Detail Description Paragraph (65):

[0080] Using the budget approach, a program algorithm weighs the recommendation criteria toward costs. For instance, a client investigating caskets may be prompted to enter demographic or income data, as well as an expectant price range. Software then compiles a list of products or services from the central database that have data fields conforming to the user input. A budgetary program may assign values to the data fields that the program may mathematically manipulate based upon the user input. Thus, the program uses the weighted values to recommend funeral plans appropriate to the unique resources of the client, based on the user input, financial models and other studies.

Detail Description Paragraph (66):

[0081] FIG. 8 illustrates process steps associated with an exemplary planning session using the budgetary approach. The flowchart reflects the planning embodiment from the perspective of a user. At block 60, the user opts to begin or continue their planning from a budgetary perspective. For instance, the user may be asked to input the state or city where the funeral will be held at block 162. Questions phrased to ascertain the location of the memorial service may aid the software in estimating funeral costs specific to a locale, as prices of geographically-diverse products and services can vary dramatically.

Detail Description Paragraph (67):

[0082] The funeral program may search the funeral database for product and services in response to the user's selected locale. For instance, the program may buffer information relating to products and services having a database field that corresponds to an indicated state. The state-specific data may populate tables within the buffer. The buffer may arrange the data within the tables such that pricing information may be searched and retrieved as described above. In addition, or alternatively, pricing information particular to the state may be retrieved directly from central data base. In either case, subsequent planning recommendations and steering options generated within the budgetary approach may reflect a statistical preference for the tabled pricing information.

Detail Description Paragraph (69):

[0084] For instance, the budgetary program may present the user with an option of evaluating the tabled information with regard to a stated budget. More particularly, a program of the embodiment may query the user with regard to their expectant budget at block 164. Alternatively, the client may be prompted to confidentially enter the amount of their monthly income. Other program queries may offer the user choices that are not tied to a specific monetary figure. For instance, the program may allow the user to highlight text reading, "I want to spend as little as possible," or "I am willing to spend whatever it takes to have a nice service." In either case, the program may generate or associate a proposed funeral budget for the user based upon the indicated phrase or entered salary/estimate figure.

Detail Description Paragraph (70):

[0085] The user may elect to review at block 62 a display of recommended products, services and sets implicated by the budget-specific input of block 164. More specifically, the program may initiate a display of pricing information from among the buffered, or otherwise stored listings of state-specific services. Such recommendations may comprise comprehensive funeral plans assembled based upon tradition, protocol

and/or historical client preference. User input entered in the course of any other planning approach or session may also be reflected in the block 62 recommendation. Preferably, however, a user will choose to further focus their planning session prior to block 62 by considering additional service and product planning options offered through the budgetary program.

Detail Description Paragraph (71):

[0086] For instance, block 166 represents another planning option associated with the budgetary approach. The user may access block 166 immediately after indicating a memorial preference at block 163. As such, the program may present the user with a listing of funerary products and services appropriate to either a burial or a cremation, per the user input of block 163. Of note, the listing may also account for geographic limitations specified by the user at block 162. The listing of services may further incorporate a range of prices associated with each product and service.

Detail Description Paragraph (74):

Funeral Home Locator

Detail Description Paragraph (75):

[0089] Still other users may prefer to begin their planning experience by first locating a suitable funeral home. Proximity and available services are just two criteria with which such a client may conduct a search at block 58 of FIG. 3. As seen in an exemplary browser of FIG. 9, a user may initiate a location sequence by indicating an acceptable search radius at a data entry field 198. The radius may originate from a specific location, such as a cemetery or a decedent's home.

Detail Description Paragraph (76):

[0090] Known mapping software may be augmented with compiled funeral home locations to present a list of homes to the client. Alternatively, a user may already know the name of a preferred funeral home. Such a client may type-in the name of a recommended home to receive an address and/or service listing. In either case, the locator program generates a display of homes conforming to the user input.

Detail Description Paragraph (77):

[0091] After reviewing the presented funeral homes, the client may select a listed home to initiate the display of additional information. Such information may relate to arranging a personal interview with a director, or linking to a website maintained by the home. The client may also choose to peruse available services and products affiliated with the home. Similarly, a funeral director of another home can use the embodiment to locate memorial items that satisfy their client requirements.

Detail Description Paragraph (78):

[0092] A funeral home may be added to a plan at the discretion of the user. Similarly, select products or services of a listed home may be incorporated into a plan, with other aspects of the plan left blank or populated with items gleaned from other searches/approaches. Other approaches, such as the step-by-step approach, may incorporate the funeral locator program as an integral component of a recommendation process. In either case, information concerning the located funeral home is stored along with other funerary data in a recommended plan. At any time, complete or partial plans may be saved or discarded, and the funeral plan website may be book-marked and recalled at the convenience of the client.

Detail Description Paragraph (79):

[0093] As implied above, the funeral home locator may be employed in conjunction with any of the above planning approaches. For instance, the locator may be employed only after the profile approach generates a partial plan at block 54 of FIG. 3. In such a scenario, the established profile parameters of the plan drive the criteria of the funeral home search. Such an application could be initiated by the user, or may be conducted automatically after a product or service is recommended.

Detail Description Paragraph (80):

[0094] FIG. 10 is a block diagram illustrating a funeral home locator application that is consistent with the principles of the present invention. Turning to the figure, a user 200 accesses the funeral plan website 52 of FIG. 3. The locator program 202 of the embodiment queries the user 200 regarding desired services and geographic requirements. For instance, a search based upon a state or zip code entry may be initiated by the user. Additionally, the user 200 may require a funeral home with a parking lot capacity adequate to accommodate a handle a large crowd. Another user may desire on-site religious services or grief counseling for loved ones.

Detail Description Paragraph (81):

[0095] The locator program transmits user input to a locator at block 202 that processes the request. Namely, a central database comprised of participating funeral homes at block 204 is searched according to client criteria. The funeral homes may have previously submitted answers to the software queries, and those answers populate fields in the central database 204. Ultimately, the locator program 202 may rate the database funeral homes according to user input. One embodiment disproportionately weights selective user input and so as to be more influential. As discussed above in detail, the locator program may assign scaled values to parameters and other database fields associated with the user input. Smaller values may be assigned to other fields of relatively lesser, stated importance. For instance, if user input indicates that proximity is twice as important to the client as cosmetology services, then a scaled value assigned to a distance database field may be twice that of a cosmetology field.

Detail Description Paragraph (82):

[0096] Search results may additionally account for supplier considerations and attributes. For instance, the locator program at block 202 may rate and order funeral homes based upon whether the homes carry a product or service affiliated with a particular funerary vendor. Such a scenario may be appropriate where a provider sponsors portions of the website. As such, recommendations may reflect a statistical preference for funeral homes having database fields corresponding to services or items associated with the supplier. For example, one embodiment may favor a funeral home that offers funding through an insurance policy proffered by the sponsor.

Detail Description Paragraph (83):

[0097] Another scenario might generically favor funerary providers based upon their adaptability to the embodiment. For instance, recommendations may demonstrate a preference for homes postured to avail themselves of the website architecture. For example, the above, exemplary enterprise structured to offer online funding using insurance, trusts, credit, etc., may appear near the top of a recommendation list due to its compatibility with respect to the confines of the program. Such preferences might generally encourage the participation of vendors and homes having services conforming to the structure of the embodiment.

Detail Description Paragraph (86):

[0100] Furthermore, one skilled in the art can readily envision the inclusion of planning approaches other than the exemplary, categorical ones discussed herein. For instance, a cemetery locator program may elicit and process user input to generate a display of establishments that conform to submitted search criteria. The program could operate in a manner analogous to the funeral home locator. Moreover, the discussed approaches are not intended to limit the scope of the invention, but are rather demonstrative of any planning approach programmed to elicit formatted user input.

Detail Description Paragraph (88):

[0101] All approaches of FIG. 3 conclude at block 62, where the client is presented with an interactive display of stored recommendations that correspond to elicited client preferences. In one embodiment, recommendations comprise comprehensive funeral plans. In another, recommendations consist of individual products and services. Such recommended products or services may be selected for incorporation into a funeral plan, or discarded in favor of another session. The client may choose to temporarily skip particular aspects of their plan, or use default values.

Detail Description Paragraph (89):

[0102] In either case, the user may be presented with additional questions and options configured to promote a more personalized and financially appropriate plan. A single client may choose to generate and save more than one plan, and may make deletions, insertions and/or other modifications at their convenience. At any point, the user may receive information on how to personally contact a funerary professional associated with a recommendation.

Detail Description Paragraph (90):

[0103] All selections may be saved into a personal file at block 64. The file may be completed and updated at the convenience of the client. Funeral plans may be continuously changed, deleted, or even copied by approved family members. At block 66, plans may be printed, posted on websites, or emailed to friends. Electronically-stored photographs or computer generated images relating to prospective plans may be displayed to clients. Stored funeral plans and personal information may be secured using known techniques such as password and encryption technologies.

Detail Description Paragraph (91):

[0104] As alluded to above, recommendations may vary according to different embodiments. For instance, in another embodiment clients may be prompted to register contact and payment information with the central server prior to receiving recommendations. Unique identifiers, such as USERID's, are assigned to each client, one of which is illustrated as being connected to central server via the computer terminal. USERID's are also assigned to funerary providers. In this embodiment, user input may take the form of an offer, and may indicate the maximum amount of compensation that a provider can expect to receive for a product or service. The date and time that such a request expires may also be included.

Detail Description Paragraph (93):

[0106] Returning to FIG. 5, potential funerary vendors 106 may also access the control server 108 to browse user input/offers. Such input may be electronically stored and displayed categorically. A program may allow vendors 106 to conduct a keyword search on the title of a user input entry or to its entirety. Potential death care providers may regularly access the server to search for relevant input, or alternatively, the server 108 may provide an automatic notification service based upon criteria previously defined by each funerary provider 106. Such criteria may include any parameter, category, key word, or other criterium described herein. The server 108 may save the criteria used in a provider 106 search for future automatic notifications.

Detail Description Paragraph (94):

[0107] Responses from funerary providers 106 may be communicated to the user 104 via electronic mail, website posting, wireless device, facsimile or postal service. One embodiment of the invention allows a user to review evaluative data that rates a prospective funerary vendor. Such data may be compiled from consumer articles and former client satisfaction surveys.

Detail Description Paragraph (95):

[0108] Still another embodiment allows vendors to bid for the business of the client. For instance, a client could indicate an interest in a candle/floral arrangement, then wait for electronic offers. Upon receiving the bids, the user decides whether to include the vendor's item in the funeral plan. Clients 104 and death care professionals may engage in asynchronous negotiation through server 108 to arrive at a final, negotiated price. Synchronous communication, e.g., online chat or voice transmittal over telephone connections, may also assist in the brokering of recommendations.

Detail Description Paragraph (97):

[0109] The costs of selected plans, products and services are compiled and listed at block 62. Prices of unselected items may also be included in estimates. As discussed above, the client is not obligated to purchase a plan/item and may choose to merely discard or save the recommendation. However, should a client elect to purchase a funeral plan or product online, the price of certain items and services may be guaranteed by vendors. The costs of other items, such as catering and floral services, may remain uninsurable due to the funeral providers limited control over them. Nonetheless, software may still initiate the activation of an interest bearing account designated for such items.

Detail Description Paragraph (98):

[0110] Funding options maybe presented to users at block 68 of FIG. 3. Options may include electronic checks, credit purchases, payment plans, established trusts, prepayment incentives and insurance purchases. Financial consultants and additional funding information may be accessed through the website to resolve client questions. Once purchased, the payment status of a funeral plan may be checked online at a password protected web link.

Detail Description Paragraph (99):

[0111] Those skilled in the art will readily recognize numerous adaptations and modifications which can be made to the present invention that will result in an improved method of planning funerals and other memorial services, yet all of which will fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the following claims. Accordingly, the invention is to be limited only by the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.

CLAIMS:

1. A computer-implemented method for creating an online funeral plan, the method

comprising: receiving user input from a user to obtain requested pricing information on a product or service offered by a selected funeral service provider among a plurality of funeral service providers; retrieving the requested pricing information by accessing a database storing pricing information associated with a plurality of products and services offered by the plurality of funeral service providers, wherein each funeral service provider is associated with a distinct set of products and services from the to plurality of products and services, and wherein the database maintains pricing information for the set of products and services associated with each funeral service provider; and outputting the requested pricing information to the user.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting a funeral service provider from the plurality of funeral service providers in response to the user input.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising selecting the funeral service provider based on criteria chosen from the group consisting of: location, services, products, capacity, pricing information, appearance and reputation.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving user input from the user to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein receiving user input from the user to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan includes receiving user input associated with a budgetary parameter, the method further comprising suggesting a budget-based funeral plan from among a plurality of budget-based funeral plans based on the budgetary parameter, each budget-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods and services meeting a budgetary criterion.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein receiving user input from the user to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan includes receiving user input associated with a profile parameter, the method further comprising suggesting a profile-based funeral plan from among a plurality of profile-based funeral plans based on the profile parameter, each profile-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods and services meeting a profile criterion.

7. The method of claim 4, wherein receiving user input from the user to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan includes receiving user input associated with a step-based parameter, the method further comprising suggesting a tailored funeral plan from among a plurality of step-based funeral plans based on the step-based parameter, each step-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods, services and educational data meeting a step-based criterion.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising processing funding of the funeral plan using a payment method selected from the group consisting of: an electronic debit, credit card, insurance, or trust fund.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising personalizing aspects of the funeral plan to reflect a religious, professional, personal, or ethnic desire of a deceased in response to user input.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing contact information of a family member, friend or associate of the user for notification of a decedent's death.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising electronically storing the funeral plan for later retrieval.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating the electronic display of the funeral plan on a web site.

13. The method or claim 1, further comprising modifying the funeral plan in response to user input.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising initiating the display of contact information to the user enabling personal or electronic communication with the death care professional.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the non-guaranteed item is selected from the group consisting of: a floral arrangement, musical performance, clergy, transportation and honorarium costs.

23. The method of claim 1, further comprising initiating the display of a payment status of the funeral plan to the user.

24. The method of claim 1, wherein the pricing information includes bids from at least a subset of the plurality of funeral service providers.

25. The method of claim 1, further comprising relating an offer for the product or service from the user to at least a subset of the plurality of funeral service providers, wherein the offer includes a price range.

28. The method of claim 1, further comprising verifying the availability of the product or service from among the plurality of funeral service providers.

29. The method of claim 1, further comprising encrypting user data and funeral plan information in conjunction with creating the funeral plan.

30. An apparatus, comprising: a memory; a database resident in the memory, the database storing pricing information associated with a plurality of products and services offered by a plurality of funeral service providers, wherein each funeral service provider is associated with a distinct set of products and services from the plurality of products and services, wherein the database maintains pricing information for the set of products and services associated with each funeral service provider; and a program configured to receive user input from a user to obtain requested pricing information on a product or service offered by a selected funeral service provider among the plurality of funeral service providers, access the database to retrieve the requested pricing information, and output the requested pricing information to the user.

31. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to recommend a funeral service provider from the plurality of funeral service providers to the user in response to user input.

32. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to recommend the funeral service provider based on criteria chosen from the group consisting of: location, services, products, capacity, pricing information, appearance and reputation.

33. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to receive user input to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan.

34. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program is configured to receive user input to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan, wherein the program receives user input associated with a budgetary parameter, wherein the program is further configured to suggest a budget-based funeral plan from among a plurality of budget-based funeral plans based on the budgetary parameter, each budget-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods and services meeting a budgetary criterion.

35. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program is configured to receive user input to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan, wherein the program receives user input associated with a profile parameter, wherein the program is further configured to suggest a profile-based funeral plan from among a plurality of profile-based funeral plans based on the profile parameter, each profile-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods and services meeting a profile criterion.

36. The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the program is configured to receive user input to select a collection of products and services to include in the funeral plan, wherein the program receives user input associated with a step-based parameter, wherein the program is further configured to suggest a step-based funeral plan from among a plurality of step-based funeral plans based on the step-based parameter, each step-based funeral plan associated with a collection of goods, services and educational data meeting a step-based criterion.

37. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program processes the funding of the funeral plan using a payment method selected from the group consisting of: an electronic debit, credit card, insurance, or trust fund.

38. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to personalize aspects

of the funeral plan to reflect a religious, professional, personal, or ethnic desire of a deceased in response to user input.

39. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to store contact information for a family member, friend or associate of a user for notification of a decedent's death.

40. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to electronically store the funeral plan for later retrieval.

41. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to initiate the display of funeral plan on a web site.

42. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to modify the funeral plan in response to user input.

47. The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the program is configured to initiate the display of contact information that enables the user to communicate personally or electronically with a funeral service provider representative.

49. The apparatus of claim 48, wherein the program is configured to retrieve an estimated cost from the database for a non-guaranteed item, wherein the non-guaranteed item is selected from the group consisting of: floral arrangement, musical performance, clergy, transportation and honorarium costs.

52. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to initiate a payment status display for the funeral plan.

53. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the pricing information includes bids from at least a subset of the plurality of funeral service providers.

54. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to relate an offer for the product or service from the user to at least a subset of the plurality of funeral service providers, wherein the offer includes a price range.

58. The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the program is configured to encrypt user data and funeral plan information in conjunction with creating a funeral plan.

59. A program product, comprising: a program configured to receive user input from a user to obtain requested pricing information on a product or service offered by a selected funeral service provider among a plurality of funeral service providers; retrieve the requested pricing information by accessing a database storing pricing information associated with a plurality of products and services offered by the plurality of funeral service providers, wherein each funeral service provider is associated with a distinct set of products and services from the plurality of products and services, and wherein the database maintains pricing information for the set of products and services associated with each funeral service provider; and output the requested pricing information to the user; and a signal bearing medium bearing the program.

61. The program product of claim 60, wherein the recordable medium is selected from among the group comprising a volatile memory device, a non-volatile memory device, a removable disk, a hard disk drive and an optical disk.

64. The program product of claim 63, wherein the transmission type medium is selected from among the group comprising web-based, digital and analog links.

65. A computer-implemented method for creating an online funeral plan, the method comprising: interacting with a user via a selected funeral service provider web site among a plurality of funeral service provider web sites; forwarding user input from a selected funeral service provider web site to a central database associated with the plurality of funeral service provider web sites to retrieve product and/or service information associated with a product or service from the database.

66. The method of claim 65, further comprising allowing retrieval of product and/or service information from the database in response to interaction with a user via the selected funeral service provider web site to only a subset of the database that corresponds to products and services offered by a funeral service provider associated with the selected funeral service provider web site.

67. An apparatus for creating an online funeral plan, comprising: a program configured to interface with a plurality of funeral service provider web sites; and a central database coupled to the program and configured to store information associated with a plurality of products and services; wherein the program is configured to forward user input from a selected funeral service provider web site from the plurality of funeral service provider web sites to the central database to retrieve information associated with a product or service from the database in response to user input directed to the selected funeral service provider web site.

68. The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the program is configured to allow retrieval of information from the database in response to interaction with a user via the selected funeral service provider web site to only a subset of the database that corresponds to products and services offered by a funeral service provider associated with the selected funeral service provider web site.

69. A computer-implemented method for creating an online funeral plan that adheres to a theme, the method comprising: selecting a thematic grouping among a plurality of thematic groupings from a database based upon theme-related input received from a user, wherein each thematic grouping comprises a collection of a product and/or services related to a distinct theme; and outputting information for a product or service associated with the selected thematic grouping to the user.

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Terms	Documents
L3 and (death\$ or dying or died)	68

Database:

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 Derwent World Patents Index
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Search:

L5

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DATE: Thursday, November 21, 2002 [Printable Copy](#) [Create Case](#)
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result set

DB=USPT,PGPB,JPAB,EPAB,DWPI,TDBD; PLUR=YES; OP=ADJ

<u>L5</u>	L3 and (death\$ or dying or died)	68	<u>L5</u>
<u>L4</u>	L3 and (death\$ or dying or died) same information	18	<u>L4</u>
<u>L3</u>	L2 and (select\$6 or choos\$6) same group\$3	690	<u>L3</u>
<u>L2</u>	L1 and (will\$3 or contingenc\$6 or plan\$6 or deed\$ or trust\$3 or estat\$3 or estimat\$3) same plan\$4 same (car\$3 or hospital\$6 or medical\$6 or health) same (provid\$3 or participant\$)	3618	<u>L2</u>
<u>L1</u>	(obituar\$6 or arrang\$6 or funera\$6 or end\$3-life or end\$3 adj liv\$3)	3474931	<u>L1</u>

END OF SEARCH HISTORY

WEST[Generate Collection](#)[Print](#)**Search Results - Record(s) 1 through 50 of 68 returned.**☐ 1. Document ID: US 20020165961 A1

L5: Entry 1 of 68

File: PGPB

Nov 7, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020165961

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020165961 A1

TITLE: Network device including dedicated resources control plane

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	RWC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 2. Document ID: US 20020160421 A1

L5: Entry 2 of 68

File: PGPB

Oct 31, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020160421

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020160421 A1

TITLE: Method for monitoring and validating stress induction of disease state

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	RWC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 3. Document ID: US 20020116485 A1

L5: Entry 3 of 68

File: PGPB

Aug 22, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020116485

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020116485 A1

TITLE: Out-of-band network management channels

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	RWC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 4. Document ID: US 20020108614 A1

L5: Entry 4 of 68

File: PGPB

Aug 15, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020108614

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020108614 A1

TITLE: Medical component system

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	RWC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 5. Document ID: US 20020099568 A1

L5: Entry 5 of 68

File: PGPB

Jul 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020099568

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020099568 A1

TITLE: System and method for facilitating the coordination of care of an individual and dissemination of information

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 6. Document ID: US 20020099291 A1

L5: Entry 6 of 68

File: PGPB

Jul 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020099291

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020099291 A1

TITLE: Systems and methods for assessing vascular effects of a treatment

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 7. Document ID: US 20020099101 A1

L5: Entry 7 of 68

File: PGPB

Jul 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020099101

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020099101 A1

TITLE: Use of flavonoid aldehydes as pesticides

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 8. Document ID: US 20020091991 A1

L5: Entry 8 of 68

File: PGPB

Jul 11, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020091991

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020091991 A1

TITLE: Unified real-time microprocessor computer

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 9. Document ID: US 20020091320 A1

L5: Entry 9 of 68

File: PGPB

Jul 11, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020091320

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020091320 A1

TITLE: Systems and methods for investigating blood flow

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KMNC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 10. Document ID: US 20020077549 A1

L5: Entry 10 of 68

File: PGPB

Jun 20, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020077549

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020077549 A1

TITLE: Systems and methods for screening for adverse effects of a treatment

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KMNC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 11. Document ID: US 20020072925 A1

L5: Entry 11 of 68

File: PGPB

Jun 13, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020072925

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020072925 A1

TITLE: Posthumous communication

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KMNC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 12. Document ID: US 20020062078 A1

L5: Entry 12 of 68

File: PGPB

May 23, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020062078

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020062078 A1

TITLE: Decision support systems and methods for assessing vascular health

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KMNC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 13. Document ID: US 20020057018 A1

L5: Entry 13 of 68

File: PGPB

May 16, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020057018

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020057018 A1

TITLE: Network device power distribution scheme

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KMNC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 14. Document ID: US 20020049617 A1

L5: Entry 14 of 68

File: PGPB

Apr 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020049617

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020049617 A1

TITLE: System and method for facilitating selection of benefits

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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PMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 15. Document ID: US 20020049485 A1

L5: Entry 15 of 68

File: PGPB

Apr 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020049485

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020049485 A1

TITLE: Medical electrical lead having bending stiffnesses which increase in the distal direction

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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PMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 16. Document ID: US 20020049384 A1

L5: Entry 16 of 68

File: PGPB

Apr 25, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020049384

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020049384 A1

TITLE: Systems and methods for assessing vascular health

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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PMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 17. Document ID: US 20020019753 A1

L5: Entry 17 of 68

File: PGPB

Feb 14, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020019753

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020019753 A1

TITLE: System, method, and computer program product for assisting caregivers

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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PMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 18. Document ID: US 20020004757 A1

L5: Entry 18 of 68

File: PGPB

Jan 10, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020004757

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020004757 A1

TITLE: System and method of planning a funeral

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KWMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 19. Document ID: US 20020001307 A1

L5: Entry 19 of 68

File: PGPB

Jan 3, 2002

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20020001307

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20020001307 A1

TITLE: VPI/VCI availability index

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KWMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 20. Document ID: US 20010056359 A1

L5: Entry 20 of 68

File: PGPB

Dec 27, 2001

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20010056359

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20010056359 A1

TITLE: System and method for communicating product recall information, product warnings or other product-related information to users of products

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KWMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 21. Document ID: US 20010056274 A1

L5: Entry 21 of 68

File: PGPB

Dec 27, 2001

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20010056274

PGPUB-FILING-TYPE: new

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20010056274 A1

TITLE: Methods, systems, and kits for lung volume reduction

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KWMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 22. Document ID: US 6473794 B1

L5: Entry 22 of 68

File: USPT

Oct 29, 2002

US-PAT-NO: 6473794

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6473794 B1

TITLE: System for establishing plan to test components of web based framework by displaying pictorial representation and conveying indicia coded components of existing network framework

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments
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KWMC	Draw Desc	Image
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